

# Transition Services of Oklahoma - Creating Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities – Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

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**OKLAHOMA**  
Rehabilitation  
Services

[Oklahoma.gov](http://Oklahoma.gov) | [www.okdrs.gov](http://www.okdrs.gov) | [#transitionsofok](https://twitter.com/transitionsofok)

# Services Available

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## WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Vocational guidance and counseling
- Vocational assessment
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Summer Programs / Experiences
- Variations of work experiences (e.g., school-work study (SWS), worksite learning, employer work study, On the Job Training (OJT)
- Work Adjustment Training (WAT)
- Tech-Now
- Project SEARCH



# How to Apply?

Apply for services at age 15 ½ - DON'T  
WAIT – ADVOCATE –

The seven-page application is available for the convenience of the teachers, parents, and students to complete to begin the process. The full application will be completed either with the counselor or sent to gather more information to input into the OKDRS database.

A referral from SPED teachers is NOT  
an application.

<https://oklahoma.gov/OKDRS.html>

# Implementation

## WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL/Special Programs and Events

- Oklahoma Transition Institute (OTI)
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- OSU-IDD - Opportunity Orange

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma Transition Institute!

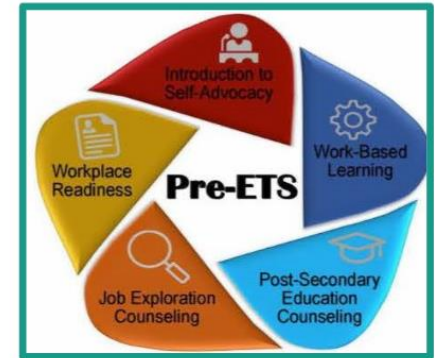
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

#### CONTACT

Yolanda Scott - [yolandascott@osweb.org](mailto:yolandascott@osweb.org) /  
405-622-2026 Ext. 301



November 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
2022

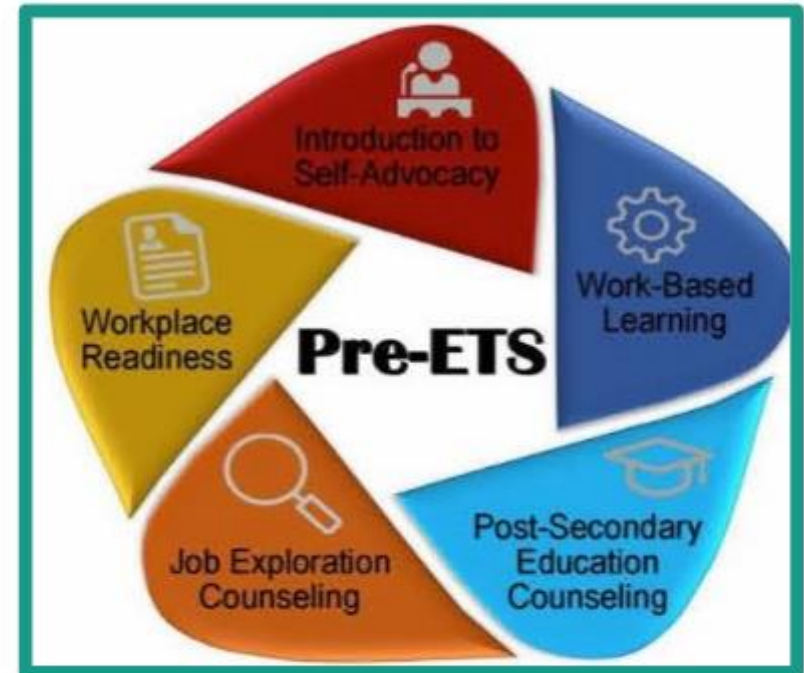


Institute for  
Developmental Disabilities

Opportunity Orange

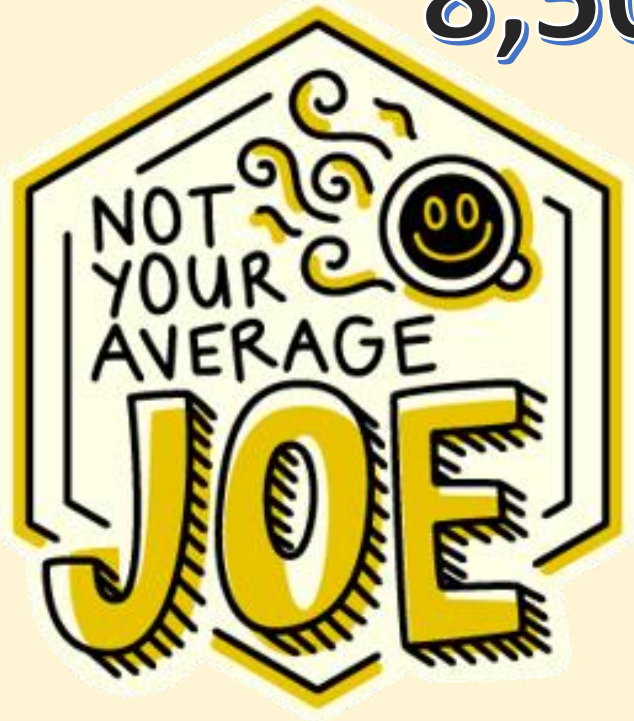
# Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- The National Center for Disability Education and Training, University Oklahoma Outreach, through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, is making available Pre-Employment Transition Service (Pre-ETS) activities to high school students with disabilities.
- The activities are intended to help students with disabilities get an early start in identifying career interests to achieve community integration, independence, post-secondary education and/or competitive integrated employment.
- Pre-ETS can be provided to students with disabilities who have been determined eligible or are potentially eligible for DRS services and who have identified need for Pre-Employment Transition Services.



# Oklahoma Pre-ETS

8,500 students



140 schools

- We have reached over **8,500 students** (since the Pilot that started in 2019) and approximately **180 schools** counting towards Pre-ETS!
- Our 22 Pre-Employment Transition Specialists are still currently working with students and schools on providing Pre-ETS services. Since virtual appears to continue right now and remember, there really are no limits on location.
- The Pre-ETS contract has opened some doors for an opportunity for Not Your Average Joe (NYAJ) and Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma (DASCO). NYAJ has some opportunities for transition aged youth that we are working on. DASCO has another opportunity with a Self-Advocacy.
- **Super exciting times!!!**

# Peer Mentoring Program and Sexuality and Disability training for those with disabilities.

- National Center for Disability Education and Training (NCDET) and the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) have launched a peer mentoring program, adapted from Peer Mentoring Works, for mentees (high-school students) aged 16-21 and mentors aged 18-26.
  - The program aims to foster self-advocacy, establish a network, and increase confidence within both mentor and mentee. The pair will be matched in line with their career, academic, and/or social interests. Through regular meetings, mentors and mentees will have the opportunity to explore self-determination skills, career interests, disability resource navigation, and so much more.
- Sexuality and Disability - Hybrid training for youth, young adults, parents, community providers, teachers, etc.
  - This training will provide participants a compact introduction to human sexuality for those living with disabilities. Provided by The University of Oklahoma – National Center for Disability Education and Training (OU/NCDET) and The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

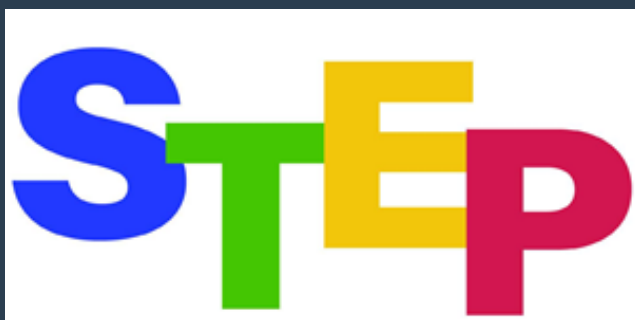
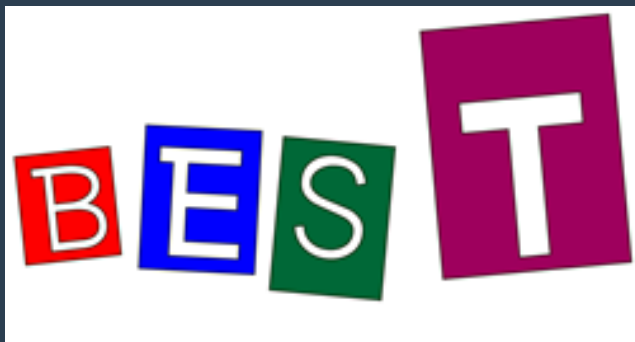


# Career Expo Events – NXT Conference

At these events, each of the students had an opportunity to hear from dynamic speakers and learn valuable information about what they can do to begin preparing for life after high school. Industry professionals will provide specific information about their career field including required education, training, requirements, and advice.

- The [#What's NXT conference](#) was sponsored by Central Tech, The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and The University of Oklahoma – National Center for Disability Education and Training (OU/NCDDET) and was designed specifically for High School Freshmen.
  - Featuring Steven McCoy as the Keynote speaker. **We had over 350 students at this event!!**
- [#evenmoore Career Expo Event](#) was sponsored by Moore Public Schools, The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), and The University of Oklahoma – National Center for Disability Education and Training (OU/NCDDET) and was designed specifically for High School aged youth.
  - Featuring Richard Hight as the Keynote speaker. **There were over 1,500 students at this event!**
- The [NXT Owasso #What'sNXT Event](#) is sponsored by Oklahoma Career Tech, Tulsa Tech Owasso Campus, The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), and The University of Oklahoma – National Center for Disability Education and Training (OU/NCDDET) and is designed specifically for High School aged youth.
  - Featuring Mark Curry as the Keynote speaker. **We had approximately 50 students at this event!**





## Summer Experiences

- Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP)
- Building Employment Skills for Today (BEST)
- Camp WOW! (when available)
- Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp

# BEST – Building Employment Skills for Today



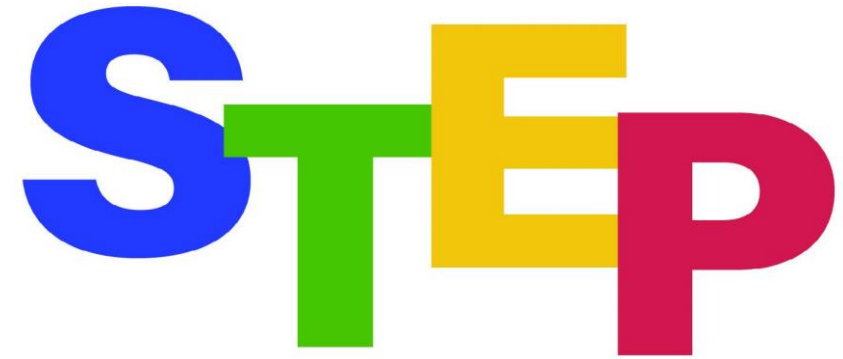
- BEST is a one-week summer camp providing opportunities to prepare students, ages 16-21, for real life jobs, careers and situations.
  - Job search activities
  - Work readiness
  - Access to employment and vocational opportunities
  - Making networking/social connections
  - Pre-employment transition skills (Pre-ETS)
- Guest speakers, Pre-ETS, DRS Counselors, SBVI/VR, and other vendors (as needed) in rural areas.
- To Apply – click link below  
<https://sites.google.com/transitionservicesofok.org/applyforbest/home>





# Summer Transition Employment Program

- AFTER BEST camp students are eligible for STEP.
- Gain summer work experience and improve employment readiness among transition aged-youth
  - Up to 25 hours of part-time work with some faded assistance of a job coach and ½ day of skill development and debriefing weekly.
  - DRS will try to match your job with your career area of interest (e.g., working in an office, food service, retail, manufacturing, construction, law enforcement, aviation, medical, oil/gas, animals).
- Must be 16 years old, potentially eligible or a client of DRS, and returning to high school AFTER your Junior year
- Application and interview required
- FREE
- To Apply – click link below  
<https://sites.google.com/transitionservicesofok.org/applyforbest/home>

The logo for the Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP) features the word "STEP" in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Each letter is a different color: 'S' is blue, 'T' is green, 'E' is yellow, and 'P' is pink. The letters are slightly overlapping, with the 'T' and 'E' appearing to be in front of the 'S', and the 'P' to the right of the 'E'.

STEP





# STEP Pictures



# STEM Camps

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
  - Partner with Tech-Now, Inc. and local schools or other organizations
  - Available to 14–19-year-old students with disabilities
  - 3-day camp free to participants
  - Number of sites and locations vary by year
  - Skills:
    - Use Windows based computers to build and race multiple HT Gravity Racers
    - Use digital cameras
    - Design a t-shirt and mouse pad
    - Design buttons and necklaces



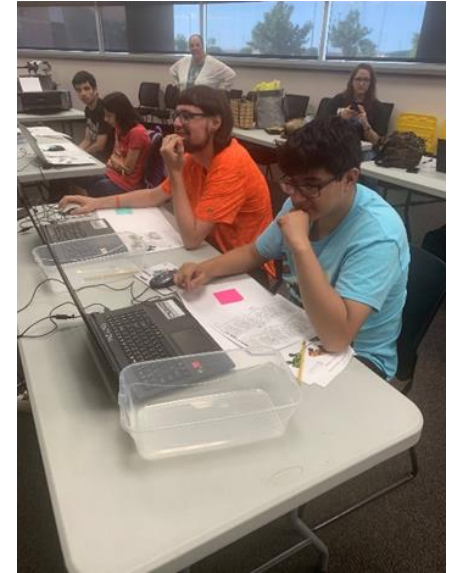
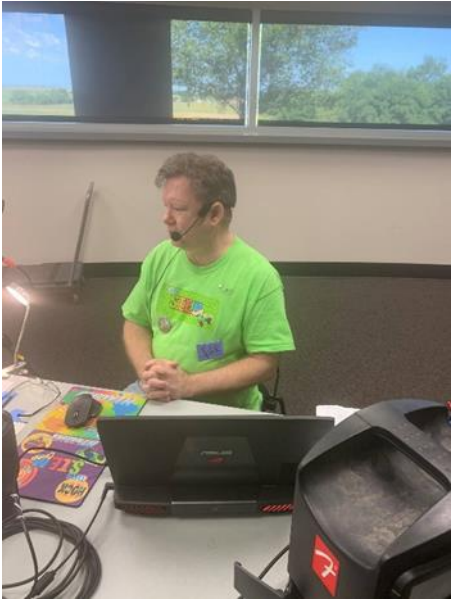




# STEM Projects



# STEM Camp



# STEM Camp Links to register

- Ada: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZRYV92Z> - June 20th - June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Atoka: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9JZMFR> - July 24th - July 26<sup>th</sup>
- OSB: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZSBNCR2> - June 12th - June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Chisolm: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVBBRG3> - July 10th - July 12<sup>th</sup>
- Tahlequah: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZSSJZYR> - June 6th - June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Tulsa: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FL7ZZD5> - June 26th - June 28<sup>th</sup>

# VIBE

## Visually Impaired and Blindness Empowerment



- VIBE focuses on ages 14 – 24 .
  - The Transitional VIBE Program provides assessment and career/higher education exploration.
  - This one-week program is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce and independent living to the best of their ability.
- 
- Independent Living Skills
  - Communication Skills
  - Team Building
  - Travel/transportation
  - Career and Job Exploration
  - Interviews
  - Technology
  - Resume Skills
  - Exploration of College/Career Tech/Workforce



# VIBE 2023

Visually Impaired and  
Blindness Empowerment  
(VIBE)

To be held:  
June 25 - June 30



The Transition VIBE Program provides assessment and career/higher education exploration. This week-long program is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce and independent living to the best of their ability.

#### **GAIN:**

- ☞ Independent living skills
- ☞ Communication skills
- ☞ Team building
- ☞ Travel/transportation
- ☞ Career and job exploration
- ☞ Interviews
- ☞ Technology
- ☞ Resume skills
- ☞ Exploration of college/career tech/workforce

Participants in Transition Vibe also can participate in the Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP). In STEP, students will experience a part-time, paid internship in their communities with job coaching assistance.

**Important:** Eligibility for the STEP program requires successful completion of Transition Vibe and Referrals must be completed by March 31.

Technology and Internet provided as needed.  
Please contact your SBVI Counselor or  
Deitra Woody at 405-522-3410 or Magan Rowan at 405-522-3380  
for more information and registration.



# TRANSITION SCHOOL-TO-WORK (SWS): WORK STUDY CONTRACT

- There are three types of Work Study:
1. *School Work Study* allows students with disabilities to work on the school campus.
  2. *Work Site Learning* allows students with disabilities to work in the community.
  3. *Employer Work Study* allows students with disabilities employment experience in part-time jobs in the community with the employers paying the wages/salary(ies).

# SWS CONTINUED.....

- DRS job seekers preauthorized to participate in Work Study may do so for up to 24 total months, as approved on an individual basis by the DRS counselor. The months do not need to be consecutive.
- Up to 15 hours a week. 15-20 hours in Summer. Summer months spent in Work Study count in the total 24 months.
- The final 9 months of their Work Study must be outside the school/district and in the community (unless approved by the DRS counselor in special circumstances).

# Work Adjustment Training WAT

- Designed to prepare high school age youth with the most significant disabilities and barriers for employment in the community by developing important work habits, attitudes and personal and social adjustment skills.
- Students may participate in WAT up to 18 total months, as approved by the DRS Counselor.
- The team must meet to determine when the student can transition out of WAT and into a less restrictive employment experience. Goal is to build skills to be able to start paid work experience.
- Contact Renee Sansom Briscoe if interested at 405-951-3488 or via email at [rsansom@okdrs.gov](mailto:rsansom@okdrs.gov)



# Tech-Now

- Elective class for students with disabilities (in about 24 classrooms)
- Students earn school credit during a technology class where they:
  - Develop work/entrepreneurial skills;
  - Enhance and build computer skills and teamwork skills; and
  - Create projects that may be entered into annual competition for cash, scholarships, software, trophies, and other prizes.



# Tech-Now

- Meets OK Promise technology elective requirement; has also been set up as a fine art in some districts.
- Form relationships with Tech-Now instructors.
- Be proactive in trying to get applications.
- Counselors will receive evaluations and work samples.
- Annual competition in May
- Contract with DRS.



# Project SEARCH



- Unpaid internship program for high school students or young adults in CareerTech
- DRS, school, host business, provider
- Intended for those with significant to most significant disabilities
- 3 rotations of up to 10 weeks each in a host business
- Competitive integrated employment at the end is the goal
- Contract with OU for state coordinator support

# Project SEARCH Continued



- 9 sites –
  - 4 high school programs
    - Enid Public Schools at INTEGRIS Bass Baptist
    - Norman Public Schools at Embassy Suites
    - Moore Public Schools at Norman Healthplex
    - Oklahoma City Public at SW Medical
  - 5 young adult programs
    - Metro-Tech at Wyndham Grand Hotel
    - Francis Tuttle at Mercy
    - Francis Tuttle at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center
    - Canadian Valley Tech at INTEGRIS Yukon
    - Tulsa Technology Center at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa
- Annual OK Project SEARCH Net Event/Summit

# Project SEARCH Students working





# Project SEARCH

## Working continued.....



# OSU-IDD - Self-Determination Training Program



Institute for  
Developmental Disabilities

Opportunity Orange

- OSU-IDD Self-Determination Training provides 1-2 trained facilitators to support and empower participants to become causal agents in their own lives by:
  - setting their own personal and/or employment goals.
  - developing a plan to overcome barriers they may face.
  - taking the steps necessary to reach or adjust their goals.
- This program promotes self-awareness, self-advocacy, and self-determination, teach participants skills to foster self-determination by setting, and actively work towards a personal goal.
- Each group meets two (2) times per week for one (1) hour training sessions. All training sessions are being conducted virtually using Zoom Video Communications, a HIPPA compliant online videoconferencing platform. Training content delivery during sessions include presentations, worksheets, small group discussion, and guest speakers.



# Young Adult Programs

- Riverhawks Program at NSU
- Sooner Works Program at OU
- Opportunity Orange at OSU (Coming Fall of 2022)
  - These programs are four-year, post-secondary certificate programs for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. It focuses on the following four areas:
    - 1. Academics
    - 2. Independent living
    - 3. Socialization/social skills
    - 4. Career development/career readiness

# Young Adult Programs Continued

- The programs offer paid internships/work experiences (paid through DRS at the federal minimum wage hourly rate) for each DRS participant. It provides 6 to 15 hours per week for a maximum of 10 weeks each fall semester and 10 weeks each spring semester.
- DRS can also (if eligible) - up to \$3,000 per semester per participant for tuition and room and board; This is based on basic living requirements/ financial status determination. This could vary from participants and is not promised to every participant.
- This amount is the set state allowable rate and there are no additional allocations for books or meal plans. There is no residency requirement for sponsorship if you are a current DRS client and meet the financial guidelines.

# IDD programs in Oklahoma



**SOONER WORKS**  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*



# What else can DRS do?

- Attendance at IEP meetings-build relationship with DRS counselor.
- Presentations to parents and other groups.
- Booths at fairs (i.e., job, career, transition).
- Form relationships with clients.
- Connect with other programs across the state to provide more opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

# DRS services after HS

- Vocational guidance and counseling
- Vocational assessment
- Supported employment
- Job placement
- Training
- Assistive Technology (AT)
- Psychological Evaluations
- On-The-Job Training opportunities

# Questions?

**RENEE SANSOM BRISCOE, M.S**

**TRANSITION COORDINATOR**

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